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Session

SUBJECT: ECOND SESSION - LOS CONFERENCE
1. THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE THIRD LAW OF THE SEA
CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED TO END ON MAY 7. IT IS NOT
EXPECTED THAT THE CURRENT SESSION WILL COMPLETE A TREATY
BY THAT DATE. IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES, AS
RECENTLY ENUNCIATED BY THE PRESIDENT, TO MAKE EVERY
EFFORT TO CONCLUDE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR.
ACCORDINGLY THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT A SECOND
NEGOTIATING SESSION THIS SUMMER IS ESSENTIAL IF THE CON-
FERENCE IS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF A WIDELY ACCEP-
TABLE TREATY ON THE LAW OF THE SEA.
2. AMBASSADORS OR CHARGES ARE REQUESTED AT THE EARLIEST
POSSIBLE TIME TO MAKE A DEMARCHE AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER
OR OTHER APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL TO URGE THAT THE LOS
DELEGATIONS OF THE HOST COUNTRIES BE INSTRUCTED TO SUPPORT
THE HOLDING OF AN ADDITIONAL LOS CONFERENCE THIS SUMMER
TO COMPLETE THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE. THE ISSUE OF AN
ADDITIONAL 1976 CONFERENCE IS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERED
SOON AT THE NEW YORK SESSION, SINCE THE PRESENT SESSION
ENDS ON MAY 7. IN MAKING YOUR DEMARCHE YOU SHOULD DRAW
ON THE SECRETARY'S APRIL 8 STATEMENT, AS WELL AS ON THE
GUIDANCE IN PARAGRAPH 3 BELOW.
3. TALKING POINTS FOLLOW:
- THE CONFERENCE WAS AUTHORIZED BY UNGA RESOLUTION TO
TAKE A DECISION TO CONVENE A SECOND SESSION IN 1976.
- SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON MANY KEY PRO-
BLEMS AND MOMENTUM MUST BE MAINTAINED.
- IN THE ABSENCE OF A SECOND SESSION, EXISTING PRESSURES
WILL BE FURTHER INCREASED FOR UNILATERAL ACTION (WHICH

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WILL SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASE THE CHANCES FOR ULTIMATE
AGREEMENT OR PUT AGREEMENT BEYOND REACH).

- THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE HAVE DEMONSTRATED
A DEEP INTEREST IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND THE PRESIDENT
HAS ASKED THE SECRETARY TO LEAD THE US DELEGATION TO A
SUMMER SESSION. IN THIS REGARD, THE PRESIDENT HAS RECENT-
LY SAID, "THE NEED FOR A TIMELY AND SUCCESSFUL LAW OF
THE SEA CONFERENCE IS EVEN MORE PRESSING TODAY THAN EVER
BEFORE. I HAVE DIRECTED OUR NEGOTIATORS TO MAKE EVERY
EFFORT, CONSISTENT WITH OUR BASIC INTERESTS, TO CONCLUDE
THE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR." THE SECRETARY,
IN HIS APRIL 8 SPEECH, STATED, "THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES
THAT IF THE PRESENT SESSION DOES NOT COMPLETE ITS WORK,
ANOTHER -- AND FINAL -- SESSION SHOULD BE ASSEMBLED THIS
SUMMER."

- A SESSION OF 6-8 WEEKS COMMENCING PERHAPS IN MID-
JULY IN GENEVA COULD PROVIDE SUFFICIENT TIME TO COMPLETE
THE SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE, WHILE PROVIDING
A SUFFICIENT PERIOD OF TIME BETWEEN SESSIONS FOR MEANING-
FUL REVIEW OF THIS SESSION'S WORK AND PREPARATION FOR THE
NEXT SESSION.

4. PLEASE REPORT REACTIONS OF YOUR HOST GOVERNMENTS
SOONEST. SISCO

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